ABOUT

Founded in 1951, Bishop O’Dowd High School (O’Dowd) is a fully accredited, Catholic college preparatory school with a challenging academic program. In a culturally rich community, O’Dowd develops healthy young people by providing them with opportunities to grow academically, spiritually, socially, and across interest areas. The present enrollment is 1,250. Applicants at the ninth and tenth grade levels are required to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) for entrance and placement.

MISSION

Bishop O’Dowd High School is owned and operated by the Diocese of Oakland and strives to develop young men and women of competence, conscience, and compassion through an integrated academic, spiritual, and extra-curricular program. Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we educate our diverse student body to build a more just, joyful, and sustainable world. We seek to develop leaders of influence who are loving, open to growth, religious, intellectually competent, and skilled leaders committed to justice and peace. The core values as outlined in our charism reinforce our continual desire to deepen our Catholic identity.

STUDENTS

The O’Dowd community represents the multi-cultural and socioeconomically diverse population of the San Francisco Bay Area, contributing to the richness of the O’Dowd experience. The current composition is: 17% African American, 11% Asian/Pacific Islander, 41% Euro-American, 10% Hispanic/Latino, 13% Multi-Racial, 0.4% Native American, and 8% other. More than 30% of O’Dowd students receive over $3.5 million in financial aid annually. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, O’Dowd made additional emergency financial aid available to address the unexpected short-term financial needs of families for a total of over $4 million.

FACULTY

O’Dowd’s 96 faculty members commit to the highest quality, innovative teaching with more than 75% of faculty members holding advanced degrees.
**CURRICULUM**

Delivered experientially and through interactive classroom activities, seminars, college-style lectures and online courses, O’Dowd offers a broad and deep college-preparatory curriculum. Traditional forms of learning integrate with the use of state of the art technology. These required courses combine with electives, totaling 240 credits, for graduation:

- Religion (4 years)
- English (4 years)
- Social Studies (3 years)
- Mathematics (3 years)
- Physical Education (2 years)
- World Languages (2 years)
- Science (2 years)
- Fine Arts (1 year)

O’Dowd offers 22 AP courses and an additional 8 honors courses in six subjects: Mathematics, English, World Language, Chemistry, and History. In order to take more than two honors or AP courses, students must request permission.

**REMOTE LEARNING STATUS**

As of March 16th, 2020, Bishop O’Dowd High School has adopted a fully remote learning structure using a combination of synchronous instruction on Zoom and asynchronous work. Students meet synchronously with their teacher and class twice a week for 80-minute periods per class. The school currently plans to continue in this mode through fall semester 2020.

All school staff engaged in structured professional development over the summer to enhance remote teaching and learning, in support of not only pedagogy, but also student health and well-being.

Approximately 30 student families were impacted with loss of job, loss of housing, and significant financial situations. The school awarded financial aid support to those students and families. Many students were not able to access reliable internet connections, which thus impacted their participation and learning.

In the Class of 2021, 80 percent of our seniors have not sat for an SAT or ACT test, due to regional testing site health closures. The school will not host an SAT School Day due to the inability to safely proctor an exam on our campus. In addition, we have not advised students to seek alternative test sites requiring travel.
National Merit Recognition:
The Class of 2020 had 8 National Merit Commended Scholars and 3 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars.

College Placement:
96% of O’Dowd students who applied to four-year colleges over the last five years were accepted.

AP Exams:
Bishop O’Dowd High School students passed the AP exam at a rate of 78%. On average, students take 1000 AP exams each year. AP tests are offered in these subject areas:

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language and Culture
- Comparative Government and Politics
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- English Language and Comp
- English Literature and Comp
- Environmental Science
- French Language and Culture
- Human Geography
- Macro Economics
- Physics 1
- Physics C - Electricity & Magnetism
- Physics C - Mechanics
- Psychology
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Statistics
- Art and Design - Drawing
- Art and Design - 2D
- Art and Design - 3D
- US Government & Politics
- U.S. History

*Test only

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Student-run clubs, events and activities build leadership skills and support a diverse range of student interests. These include: 57 competitive teams across 16 sports, 60+ student-led clubs, four musical groups and a theater arts program. Students extend their service learning participation beyond the 100-hour requirement through Campus Ministry community volunteer programs and retreat programs.

CLASS RANK AND GRADES

GPA’s are reported on a 4.0 scale.

O’Dowd does not report class rank.

Advanced Placement and some Honors courses receive one additional grade point for grades A through C.

COLLEGES OFFERING ADMISSION TO THE CLASS OF 2020

UNIVERSITIES OF CALIFORNIA: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus

Alabama A & M University
American University
Aricana State University-Tempe
ArtCenter College of Design
Azusa Pacific University
Barnard College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Bentley University
 Boise State University
Boston College
Boston University
Brandies University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Butler University
California College of the Arts
California Institute of the Arts
California Lutheran University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Clark Atlanta University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Colorado State University in the City of New York
Cornell College
Cornell University
Creighton University
CRYP Hunter College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dillard University
Dominican University of California
Drew University
Duke Kunshan University
Duke University
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University-Fortress
Emory University
Emory University
Fairfield University
Florida State University
Fontham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Furman University
George Fox University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus
Georgia State University
Georgia State University-Perimeter College
Georgia Tech
Grand Canyon University
Guilford College
Hamline University
Hampton University
Harvard College
Harvey Mudd College
Hawaii Pacific University
Hobart Williams Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Holy Names University
Howard University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
Providence
Kean University
La Sierra University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Louisiana State University
Loma Linda University
Lydia Mossman University
 Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Marist College
Marquette University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Maryville University of St. Louis
McDaniel College
McGill University
Menlo College
Miami University-Ohio
Michigan State University
Mills College
Montana State University
Montclair State University
Mount Holyoke College
New York School of Interior Design
Northern Arizona University
Northeastern University
Northern Kentucky University
Northwestern University
Norwich University
Oakwood University
Occidental College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oregon State University
Pace University-New York
Pacific Union College
Penn State University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Purdue University-Main Campus
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Sacred Heart University
Saint Mary’s College of Indiana
Saint Michael’s College
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of Visual Arts
Scranton College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Skidmore College
Southern Oregon University
Spelman College
St. John’s University
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
Texas Southern University
The American University of Paris
The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina
The College of Wooster
The Evergreen State College
The New School
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Arizona
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
The University of Texas at Austin
Trinity University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Texas Tech University
United States Military Academy
University at Buffalo, State University of New York
University of Alabama
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Denver
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Maryland College Park
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Nevada Las Vegas
University of Nevada-Reno
University of New Hampshire-Main Campus
University of New Mexico-Main Campus
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame